

Message Text

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21

ACTION ARA-10

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SUBJECT: ARMED FORCES COMMEMORATE MARTYRS IN 1932 APRISTA ATTACK

1. IN LIMA ON JULY 9, THE PERUVIAN ARMED FORCES STAGED A COMMEMORATION OF THEIR "MARTYRES AND HEROES" IN THE 1932 APRISTA UPRISING IN TRUJILLO. THE CEREMONY WAS PRESIDED OVER BY MORALES BERMUDEZ IN HIS CAPACITY AS COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE ARMY. IT WAS ATTENDED BY THE OTHER TWO JUNTA MEMBERS, GENERAL GILARDI AND ADMIRAL GALVEZ, THE JOINT COMMAND OF THE ARMED FORCES, THE CABINET AND DIRECTORS GENERAL OF THE THREE POLICE BRANCHES. THOUSANDS OF MILITARY AND POLICE OFFICERS ATTENDED.

2. COMMENT: THIS IS A TRADITIONAL CEREMONY, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND ARMED FORCES ATTENDANCE MAY HAVE BEEN SOMEWHAT LARGER THIS YEAR. OF MORE THAN USUAL INTEREST THIS TIME, HOWEVER, WAS THE GOP NEED TO SHOW ARMED FORCES (AND POLICE) UNITY AFTER THE STRAINS OF THE JUNE 25 REMOVAL OF THE NAVY MINISTER AND THE FEBRUARY 5 ATTACK BY THE ARMY ON THE POLICE. THERE ARE RUMORS THAT THE NAVY SHAKE-UP IS NOT YET COMPLETED AND REPORTS OF LINGERING POLICE DISCONTENT.

3. ALSO INTERESTING WAS TREATMENT OF THE CEREMONY BY THE PRESS. EL COMERCIO HAD THE STORY ON AN INSIDE PAGE, BUT IT WAS FRONT PAGE NEWS IN THE OTHER "SOCIALIZED PRESS." THESE HEAVILY LEFTIST-INFLTRATED DAILIES BANNERED, "GREATEST DEMONSTRATION OF UNITY" AND "UNITED ARMED FORCES REPUDIATE APRA."

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4. PLAYING UP THE INHERENT ANTI-APRA ASPECTS OF THE CEREMONY IS DESIGNED TO "BOX-IN" THOSE IN THE GOP WHO MIGHT CONTEMPLATE SOME ARRANGMENT OR UNDERSTANDING WITH APRA. MORALEZ BERMUDEZ HAS BEEN TRYING TO KEEP SOME LINES OPEN TO THE PARTY. INTERIOR MINISTER RICHTER, PROMINENTLY IN ATTENDANCE AT THE CEREMONY, RECENTLY TOOK ISSUE WITH RADICAL ENERGY AND MINES MINISTER FERNANDEZ MALDONADO OVER WHETHER APRA MEMBERS WERE WORTHY TO SUPPORT THE REVOLUTIONARY GOVERNMENT. THIS APRA ISSUE IS ILLUSTRATIVE OF THE RADICAL-MODERATE STRUGGLE GOING ON IN THE GOP NOW.
DEAN

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